# yt-dlp Video downloader

**Extract** read page, list formats → `-f` / `-S` → **Download** video + audio streams → `ffmpeg` → **Merge** into one container → `-x`, `--embed-*` → **Post-process** audio, subs, metadata → `-o` → **Output file** named by template

## CONCEPTS

Only download what you may: respect the site's terms of service and copyright.

Merging, audio extraction and embedding need ffmpeg (and ffprobe) on your PATH.

Sites change often; if a download breaks, run yt-dlp -U first.

## DOWNLOAD

**`yt-dlp <url>`**
Download best video and audio

**`yt-dlp -a <file>`**
Download all URLs listed in a file

**`yt-dlp -P <dir> <url>`**
Save into a directory

**`yt-dlp -s <url>`**
Simulate: do not download

**`yt-dlp -r 2M <url>`**
Limit download speed

**`yt-dlp --download-sections "*10:00-12:30" <url>`**
Download only a time range

## FORMATS

**`yt-dlp -F <url>`**
List available formats

**`yt-dlp -f <id> <url>`**
Download a specific format ID

**`yt-dlp -f "bv*+ba/b" <url>`**
Best video plus best audio (default)

**`yt-dlp -f "bv*[height≤720]+ba/b[height≤720]" <url>`**
Cap resolution at 720p

**`yt-dlp -S res:1080 <url>`**
Prefer up to 1080p when sorting

**`yt-dlp -t mp4 <url>`**
Prefer widely playable mp4 codecs

**`yt-dlp --merge-output-format mkv <url>`**
Choose the merged container

## AUDIO

**`yt-dlp -x <url>`**
Extract audio, keep source codec

**`yt-dlp -x --audio-format mp3 <url>`**
Extract audio as mp3

## AUDIO (cont.)

**`yt-dlp -t mp3 <url>`**
Preset for mp3 audio

**`yt-dlp -x --audio-quality 0 <url>`**
Best quality (0) to worst (10)

**`yt-dlp -f ba <url>`**
Download best audio stream only

## PLAYLISTS

**`yt-dlp --yes-playlist <url>`**
Download the whole playlist

**`yt-dlp --no-playlist <url>`**
Only the single video from a mixed link

**`yt-dlp -I 1:5 <url>`**
Items 1 to 5 of a playlist

**`yt-dlp --flat-playlist -j <url>`**
List entries without resolving each

**`yt-dlp --dateafter 20260101 <url>`**
Only videos from this date on

**`yt-dlp --download-archive <file> <url>`**
Skip IDs already recorded in a file

## PLAYLISTS (cont.)

**`yt-dlp --break-on-existing <url>`**
Stop at the first archived video

## OUTPUT NAMES

**`yt-dlp -o "%(title)s.%(ext)s" <url>`**
Name the file by title

**`yt-dlp -o "%(uploader)s/%(title)s [%(id)s].%(ext)s" <url>`**
Folder per uploader

**`yt-dlp -o "%(playlist_index)03d - %(title)s.%(ext)s" <url>`**
Number playlist items

**`yt-dlp --restrict-filenames <url>`**
Use only safe ASCII characters

**`yt-dlp -O "%(title)s" <url>`**
Print a field instead of downloading

**`yt-dlp -j <url>`**
Dump metadata as JSON

## SUBTITLES

**`yt-dlp --list-subs <url>`**
List available subtitle languages

## SUBTITLES (cont.)

**`yt-dlp --write-subs --sub-langs en <url>`**
Download English subtitles

**`yt-dlp --write-auto-subs <url>`**
Include auto-generated subtitles

**`yt-dlp --embed-subs <url>`**
Embed subtitles into the video

## METADATA

**`yt-dlp --embed-metadata <url>`**
Write title, artist and more into the file

**`yt-dlp --embed-thumbnail <url>`**
Embed the thumbnail as cover art

## LOGIN AND NETWORK

**`yt-dlp --cookies-from-browser firefox <url>`**
Use your browser's login cookies

## TOOL

**`yt-dlp -U`**
Update to the latest release